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NEWS RELEASE

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No New Elementary, Middle Schools Facing Sanctions Under No Child Left Behind 9 Schools Met Annual Targets and Avoid Sanctions

PROVIDENCE – Education Commissioner Peter McWalters announced this morning (Aug. 28th, 2006) that no new elementary or middle schools will have to offer school choice or face additional sanctions mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Among Rhode Island elementary and secondary schools, 23 missed their targets for two years in a row and are therefore “Identified for School Improvement.”

There were 9 schools identified for improvement last year that made sufficient progress and are no longer facing any sanctions. They are the Northern Lincoln Elementary and the Saylesville School (Lincoln); the Wickford Middle School (North Kingstown); the Henry J. Winters School (Pawtucket); the Charlotte Woods Elementary and the Reservoir Avenue School (Providence); the Greenbush Elementary School (West Warwick); and the Citizens Memorial and Leo A. Savoie School (Woonsocket).

Of the schools identified for improvement this year, 21 must offer school choice or face other sanctions under NCLB. (The NCLB sanctions apply only to schools receiving federal Title I funds for high-poverty schools.)

The elementary and middle schools that will offer choice this year, from 3 school districts (Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence), must notify parents that the school has been identified as a school in need of improvement. Parents will have the right to transfer their children to another school.

Information about high schools that have been identified for improvement or that face sanctions will be released next month. High-school students were tested in the spring, and the results of those tests have not been certified.

“These preliminary results show that Rhode Island schools are improving,” said Commissioner McWalters. “As we continue working together to bring all students to proficiency, our schools must meet the challenge of hitting multiple targets year after year.”

All schools must hit annual targets, in both English language arts and mathematics, for the school as a whole and for various groups of students within the school (Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and White students; students in poverty, students with limited English, and students with disabilities). They also must hit targets on either attendance rates or, for high schools, graduation rates. Schools that miss targets are classified as “in need of improvement.”

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The NCLB mandates that schools receiving Title I funds for high-poverty schools must offer school choice if they miss targets for two years in a row. There are about 150 Title I schools in Rhode Island.

If schools miss their targets for three years in a row, they must offer free tutoring (supplementary educational services) as well as school choice. After four years, they face “corrective action” and after five years they face “restructuring.”

Here is a breakdown of the elementary and middle schools identified for improvement:

	2004-05	2005-06
Elementary Schools		
Choice	14	0
Supplementary Services	4	10
Corrective Action	0	3
Restructuring	0	0
Non Title I	4	1
Total	22	14
Middle Schools		
Choice	1	0
Supplementary Services	1	0
Corrective Action	5	5
Restructuring	2	3
Non Title I	2	1
Total	11	9

Notes:

High-school results have not been certified; list will be released next month.

Non-Title I schools face no sanctions under the federal NCLB; they receive support and may be subject to intervention or restructuring under state law.

Schools receiving supplementary services must still offer choice; schools in corrective action or restructuring must offer supplementary services and choice.

A list of the schools facing sanctions and cleared from sanctions is attached.

The complete list of school-performance classifications of the elementary and middle schools, based on the 2005-06 state tests, will be released next month. The performance classifications of the high schools will be released in November.

More information about the RIDE accountability system is available on the RIDE website, www.ride.ri.gov, see under “Assessment & Accountability News” or “2006 School-Performance Classifications.”